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PERSONALITY DATA EXTRACT

Name: TSUJI Masanobu

Agency: JIS

Whether the third group of ex-officers will ever get to Communist China is doubtful. This delegation, unlike the two delegations formed by ENDO, was brought together by former Col TSUJI Masanobu. As a staff officer under General YAMASHITA Tomoyuki, the conqueror of Malaya and Singapore, TSUJI earned a reputation as a brilliant strategist. In contrast to leftist ENDO, Col TSUJI is a Liberal-Democrat, a member of the Diet, and president of the Self-Defense League, an organization of rightwing nationalists. TSUJI has made three trips to Communist China: twice as a member of Japanese Diet delegations and once on his way back from a tour of Southeast Asia and the Middle East as personal representative of ISHIRASHI Tanzan, then Prime Minister. During this last visit to Peiping, TSUJI interviewed MAO Tse-tung and apparently sold MAO the idea of a TSUJI-selected ex-officer tour. The members of this delegation, scheduled to be headed by former Lt Gen ISOGAYA Kensuke, were selected with the assistance of former Col RATTORI Takushiro, who once worked for the G2 Section of General Mac-Arthur's GHQ.

Since his return from China, Chinese Communist critics have berated TSUJI for an article he wrote for the Japan Weekly, an anti-Communist periodical. TSUJI accused the Chinese Communists of giving financial aid to the Japan Communist Party and the Japan Socialist Party. TSUJI has also been criticized by ENDO, who has supposedly asserted that MAO will accept only ENDO-selected ex-officer delegations to Communist China.

Source: CIPAC, Vol III, NR 3, March 1958, p. 32

....the matter of TSUJI Masanobu and his secretary OMOTE was taken up....OMOTE had proved to be his usual friendly and loquacious self and had freely discussed his work TSUJI. OMOTE had told [ ] the TSUJI was a frugal, hard-working man of tremendously keen intelligence who inspired vast admiration in all who worked with him, including OMOTE himself. Omote stated that he was willing to "die" for TSUJI if necessary. TSUJI's great project, according to OMOTE, was to effect a rapprochement between Japan and the Chinese Mainland to the detriment of both the U.S. and the USSR. In other words, to bring about a rift between Communist China and the USSR, thus opening a power vacuum into which Japan might then logically step. Thus, united by the mutually advantageous economic and political ties which would come about as a result, Japan and China together would be in a position to form a bloc, or in OMOTE's words a "green belt", comprising all of Southeast Asia, India, and the other Afro-Asian powers, which would be strong enough to act as a buffer between the USSR and the U.S. and to resist all pressure from both sides. With the natural and manpower resources of China and the industrial complex and know-how of Japan at their behest, the Afro-Asian peoples could soon wrest leadership from the present two major powers to assume the

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predominant role in world politics. Since, however, TSUJI harbors no illusions as to the difficulty of severing the present CHICOM-Soviet relationship, he feels that Japan should immediately join with India and the other Afro-Asian powers to begin the construction of the "green belt" (neutral zone) between East and West, all the while striving to drive the desired wedge between Communist China and the USSR. TSUJI, according to OMOTE, discussed this and related topics with MAO Tse-Tung during his famous visit to Peking, although OMOTE said nothing about the outcome of these talks. TSUJI has also met and discussed his ideas with NASSER of Egypt and TITO of Yugoslavia. According to OMOTE, TSUJI, though himself neither a Marxist nor a Communist, has a high opinion of TITO, and would include Yugoslavia in his "green belt." As a first step in the creation of the "green belt," TSUJI would establish diplomatic relations with Peking and would abrogate the Administrative Agreement now in effect between Japan and the U.S., thus causing the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Japan. Once the "green belt" idea really got going, TSUJI feels, it would only be a matter of time before China would join because of her natural affinity for other Asians and traditional dislike of the white man, including the Russians. [ ] attempted to draw OMOTE out on TSUJI's contacts, but without much success, although OMOTE did mention several Kiet members, including one UTSUMOMIYA (fnu), who are in TSUJI's camp. (Names to be furnished later.) OMOTE avoided mention of TSUJI's alleged Chinese contacts, nor at any time did he mention KIYOKUNI Shigetoshi. At the conclusion of their dinner, OMOTE suggested to [ ] that they meet on a regular basis once a month "for old times sake," and also offered to introduce [ ] to TSUJI. [ ] readily assented to both offers.

Source: SovBr CR #284, 21 Apr 1958. [ ]

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TSUJI Masanobu and his secretary, [ ] friend, OTOE, who had accompanied TSUJI to Ishikawa Prefecture to campaign for the coming elections. [ ] added that he had heard from a friend of his, SUGO (fnu), Diet reporter for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, that TSUJI had gone to Prime Minister KISHI and had said to KISHI that, in the event the Liberal-Democratic Party should lose the election, the entire responsibility for loss of the election would rest with KISHI and KISHI alone, and KISHI would then have no choice but to "retire" from politics. [ ] then said that TSUJI "hates" KISHI and KISHI "hates" TSUJI. One of the reasons behind this friction, according to [ ] had been KISHI's refusal to heed TSUJI's demand that the Japanese Government accord diplomatic recognition to the Chinese Communists. Of further interest, [ ] mentioned that TSUJI receives his financial backing from the president of Okuri Kuden Tetsu Kabushiki Kaisha. [ ] did not remember the name of this individual, but surmised that we could easily obtain this information if we were interested.

Source: SovEr CR #310, 29 Apr 1958, [ ]

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